



**DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION  
PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2004**

Committee Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Anna Fan, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)  
Barbara J. Todd, Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)  
Syed Ali, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)  
Bryan Eya, Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)  
Brian Larimore, Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB)  
Lynn Baker, Air Resources Board (ARB)  
Dave Whitmer, County Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACSA)  
Tobi Jones, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Visitors in Attendance:

Betsy Peterson, California Seed Assn.  
Renee Pinel, Western Plant Health Association (WPHA)  
Artie Lawyer, Technical Scientific Group (TSG)  
Andre de Fontaine, Inside Cal/EPA  
Dave Tamayo, Sacramento County  
John Pearson, Compliance Service  
Mark Rentz, DPR  
Marylou Verder-Carlos, DPR  
Robert Schlag, OEHHA  
Dave Rice, OEHHA  
Kevin Keefer, WPHA  
Ann Katten, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

1. Introductions and Committee Business – Tobi Jones, Chairperson
  - a. About 18 people attended the meeting.
  - b. There were no corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting held on September 17, 2004.
2. National and State Efforts for Environmental Health Tracking Including Pesticide Illness Reporting – Robert Schlag, OEHHA

At both the federal and state levels, many different databases contain a vast amount of environmental and health-effects data. Most of these databases are maintained separately and are not linked or interactive with one another. This lack of interactivity limits the



usefulness of the data and impedes our understanding of the relationship between environmental contaminants and adverse health effects. Recognizing the potential value in establishing data linkage capability of the disparate datasets, the U.S.EPA has established the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) and the CDC has established the Environmental Health Tracking Program (EHTP). In parallel action, the California legislature enacted SB 702 (2001) and SB189 (2003) that advances the integration of environmental hazard, exposure, and health outcome databases.

The NEIEN has made available grant funds to facilitate data-sharing development between states (and state agencies), the federal government, and researchers via a network node-based exchange. In FY 2004-05, three NEIEN grants were awarded to Cal/EPA, one of which is a joint OEHHA/DPR project to couple pesticide illness reporting with the developing web-based DHS confidential morbidity report (CMR), which is the mechanism that physicians report communicable diseases and other conditions. This web-based CMR system is under development by DHS and will be fully operational in 2005. The integrated web-based pesticide incident investigation (WebPIR) system is currently being developed and will shortly undergo pilot testing in three California counties, and will eventually be linked with the NEIEN and the EHTP.

Ultimately, the goal of the WebPIR effort is to diminish the incidence and the effects of pesticide-related illness by *improving information exchange* among physicians, poison control centers, local health officers, county agricultural commissioners, and state regulatory and public health agencies.

3. Overview of Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program – Marylou Verder-Carlos, DPR

DPR's Pesticide Illness and Surveillance Program is one of the programs in the Worker Health and Safety Branch. The program receives all reported pesticide illnesses in California. Most reports are retrieved from the Department of Industrial Relations' Worker's Compensation reports from physicians. Since the late 70's this program has published annual pesticide illness reports. The program has an extensive database that stores all pertinent data from the illness reports and investigations and works closely with each county's agricultural commissioner's staff to investigate each reported case. The public is welcome to query the data with the exception of confidential information from the individual cases. The most current annual pesticide illness report available is for the year 2002.

4. PREC Member Forum – Anna Fann, OEHHA

OEHHA is one of six agencies under the umbrella of the California Environmental Protection Agency. OEHHA performs health hazard evaluations and risk assessments for chemicals in the environment. While OEHHA does not promulgate environmental regulations directly, it is responsible for developing and providing risk managers in state and

local government agencies with toxicological and medical information relevant to decisions involving public health. State agency users of such information include all boards and departments within Cal/EPA, as well as the Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Emergency Services, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and Department of Justice. OEHHA also works with federal agencies, industries, and the scientific community, media, legislature and general public on environmental and public health issues.

The current scientific functions and responsibilities in OEHHA are housed in four scientific programs: Air Toxicology and Epidemiology Section, Integrated Risk Assessment Section, Reproductive and Cancer Hazard Assessment Section, and Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Section (PETS). The major mandated pesticide related activities are in PETS and these are conducted mostly in coordination with DPR. These include: physician training on recognition, management, and reporting of pesticide illnesses; pesticide toxicology and epidemiology; pesticide illness reporting; peer review of risk characterization documents (by DPR); toxic air contaminants findings; scientific and ethical reviews of pesticide exposure studies; agricultural worker protection regulations; medical supervision program; and incident response.

Other activities that involve environmental contaminants, including pesticides, also involve interactions among programs. These include: developing health-protective exposure standards or advisories for different media (air, water, land) to recommend to regulatory agencies (e.g., ambient air quality standards for Air Resources Board, drinking water public health goals for DHS); carrying out special investigations of potential environmental causes of illness, diseases and deaths; continuing public health oversight of environmental regulatory programs within Cal/EPA; making recommendations to DFG and the State Water Resources Control Board relating to sport and commercial fishing areas where fish may be contaminated, along with fish advisories as appropriate; assessing health risks to the public from chemical contamination of food, seafood, drinking water, and consumer products; providing guidance to local health departments, environmental programs, and other agencies with specific public health problems, including appropriate actions to take in chemical emergencies; and implementing Proposition 65.

More detailed information can be obtained at [www://oehha.ca.gov](http://www.oehha.ca.gov)

5. Agenda Items for Next Meeting— Tobi Jones, DPR

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 21, 2005 in the Sierra Hearing Room located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building.

5. Closing Comments – Tobi Jones

The meeting was adjourned.